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Report of the  
New York Institution  
for  
The Blind.

1870.



## Board of Managers.

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AUGUSTUS SCHELL,  
ROBERT S. HONE,  
DANIEL H. TOMPKINS,  
D. LYDIG SUYDAM,  
NATHANIEL P. HOSACK,  
JOSEPH GRAFTON,  
THEO. BAILEY MYERS,  
JOHN TREAT IRVING,  
JAMES M. McLEAN,  
ALEXANDER VAN RENSSELAER,  
SMITH CLIFT,  
WILLIAM WHITEWRIGHT, JR.,  
WILLIAM C. SCHERMERHORN,  
CHARLES DE RHAM,  
FRANCIS A. STOUT,  
WILLIAM B. HOFFMAN,  
JAMES W. GERARD, JR.,  
F. A. SCHERMERHORN,  
PETER MARIÉ,  
J. H. RHOADES.

## Officers of the Board.

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AUGUSTUS SCHELL.....	<i>President.</i>
ROBERT S. HONE.....	<i>Vice-President.</i>
T. BAILEY MYERS.....	<i>Recording Secretary.</i>
WM. C. SCHERMERHORN.....	<i>Corresponding Secretary.</i>
JOSEPH GRAFTON.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>

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## Standing Committees

FOR

1871.

### *Committee on Finance:*

DANIEL H. TOMPKINS,	JAMES M. MCLEAN,
WILLIAM WHITEWRIGHT, JR.	

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### *Committee on Supplies, Repairs and Improvements.*

SMITH CLIFT,	CHARLES DE RHAM,
NATHANIEL P. HOSACK,	ALEXANDER VAN RENSSELAER,
J. H. RHOADES.	

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### *Committee on Instruction and Music.*

WILLIAM C. SCHERMERHORN,	WILLIAM B. HOFFMAN,
JOHN T. IRVING,	JAMES W. GERARD, JR.

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### *Committee on Manufactures.*

D. LYDIG SUYDAM,	PETER MARIE,
WILLIAM B. HOFFMAN,	F. A. SCHERMERHORN.

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The President shall be *ex officio* member of all Standing Committees.

The Vice-President and Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee on Finance. (*By-Laws.*)

## Officers of the Institution.

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WILLIAM B. WAIT.....*Superintendent.*  
 JAMES W. G. CLEMENTS, M.D.....*Attending Physician.*  
 EDWARD L. BEADLE, M.D.....*Consulting Physician.*

### *Consulting Surgeons.*

JOHN H. HINTON, M.D.,      ABRAHAM DUBOIS, M.D.

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### *Teachers in the Academical Department.*

STEPHEN BABCOCK,                      MISS ALICE E. SMITH,  
 LOYAL A. BIGELOW,                      MISS C. C. PLIMPTON,  
 MISS ELIZABETH CARPENTER,      MISS EMMA L. REYNOLDS,  
    MISS ANN COX.

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### *Teachers in the Musical Department.*

THEODORE THOMAS, *Director.*

FRED'K HENSSLER.....*Professor of Vocal Music.*  
 CHARLES A. FOEPPLE.....*Professor of Instrumental Music.*  
 OTTO SINGER.....*Professor of Instrumental Music.*  
 MISS H. AMELIA WRIGHT.....*Piano.*  
 MISS CATHERINE CONNELL.....*Piano.*  
 MISS H. SPARMAN.....*Piano.*

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### *Teachers in the Industrial Department.*

HUGH F. DARRAGH.....*Foreman in the Mat and Broom Shop.*  
 WARREN WATERBURY.....*Foreman in the Mattress Shop.*  
 MISS ANNA SHERIDAN.....*Upholstress.*

*Sewing Department.*

(Under the direction of Assistant Matron.)

MISS RACHEL A. BISHOP, *Teacher.**House Department.*JOHN ALLYN, *Steward.\***Matron.*

MRS. MARY A. HAYES.

*Assistant Matron.*

MISS. L. A. HASKELL.

*Hospital Nurse.*

MISS E. M. CLEALAN and an Assistant.

*Boys' Nurse.*

MISS ELIZA MAHONY.

*Girls' Nurse.*

MISS RACHEL BISHOP.

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\* Mr. Allyn is also Agent of the Manufacturing Department.

# REPORT.

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*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New-York:*

The Managers of the New York Institution for the Blind, in compliance with the Act of the Legislature passed April 1st, 1838, respectfully submit to your Honorable body the following Report of their proceedings, and of the disposition made by them of the money received by the Institution from the State for the year ending December 31, 1870.

A detailed account of the management of the several departments of the Institution, and of the progress of the pupils in their various pursuits, will be found in the Report of the Superintendent which is hereto annexed, and is in all respects highly satisfactory.

The Managers also submit herewith the Report of the Physician on the sanitary condition of the pupils. It will be seen by it that they have enjoyed good health to a remarkable degree, and that no death has occurred, and that there has been scarcely a case of serious illness among them.

The Report of the Treasurer is annexed.

It gives a detailed account of all the moneys expended for all purposes during the current year.

The appropriation made by the State has been sufficient to meet the expenses of the Institution for the education and maintenance of the pupils for the past year.

The Institution has, during the past year, erected a new building, and made extensive improvements and repairs on its present buildings, at a cost of about one hundred and ten thousand dollars, and for the purpose of providing means to meet the expenses thereof the Institution has executed a mortgage on its property on the Ninth Avenue, between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets, in the City of New York, to secure the payment of one hundred thousand dollars, in bonds of one thousand dollars each.

For the purpose of perpetuating the Legacy and Donation Fund

herein mentioned, the same has been funded in the bonds of the Institution, secured by said mortgage.

The new building which has been erected, and the extensive improvements and repairs which have been made, will add largely to the capacity of the Institution, and enable it to give increased facilities for the education of the pupils, and extend its usefulness.

The following statement shows the expenditure of the Institution for the year 1870 :

Salaries and Wages, - - - - -	\$16,073 28
Supplies, - - - - -	12,792 31
Clothing, - - - - -	3,032 90
Furniture and Fixtures, - - - - -	1,742 29
On Account of Repairs and Alterations, - - - - -	67,815 89
Travelling Expenses, - - - - -	271 36
Gas, - - - - -	589 20
Music and Instruction, - - - - -	2,689 84
Raw Material, Manufacturing Department, - - - - -	2,091 76
Petty Accounts, - - - - -	1,488 50
Fairs and Exhibitions, - - - - -	165 03
Insurance, - - - - -	256 80
Croton Water, - - - - -	73 00

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\$109,082 16

The following is a list of the different donations and legacies which the Institution has from time to time received from charitable and benevolent individuals, and funded in its bonds :

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

Legacy of Seth Grosvenor, - - - - -	\$10,000 00
" Frissell Fund, - - - - -	2,000 00
" William E. Saunders, - - - - -	725 84
" Thomas Eddy, - - - - -	1,000 00
" A. G. Phelps, - - - - -	480 50
" S. V. Sickles, - - - - -	2,384 90
" Robert Goodhue, - - - - -	1,000 00
" Messrs. Rose, - - - - -	5,000 00
" S. V. Albro, - - - - -	428 57
" John Penfold, - - - - -	500 00
" Madam Jumel, - - - - -	5,000 00
" T. Garner, - - - - -	1,410 00
" Mrs. Steers, - - - - -	34 66
" John J. Phelps, - - - - -	2,350 00
" E. Magee, - - - - -	534 00
" B. F. Butler, - - - - -	150 00
" Rebecca Elting, - - - - -	94 00
Donation of Gerard Martens, - - - - -	500 00



In submitting this, their Annual Report, the Managers have great satisfaction in bearing testimony to the fidelity with which the officers and employees of the Institution have discharged their various and arduous duties, and to the care and devotion which have marked their attention to the interests of those who, from the nature of their affliction, are so peculiarly at the mercy of those to whose charge they are committed.

By the additions and alterations which have been made in the buildings, the school rooms, dormitories and dining rooms have been greatly enlarged and improved. Many additional comforts and conveniences have been provided for the pupils, which, for lack of room were heretofore wanting.

Everything has been done with a view to the health, safety and comfort of the inmates ; and, at present, this Institution is in all respects equal to any in the country.

AUGUSTUS SCHELL,

*President of the New-York Institution for the Blind.*

T. BAILEY MYERS,

*Secretary.*

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CITY AND COUNTY OF }  
NEW-YORK. } ss.

AUGUSTUS SCHELL, of said City, being duly sworn, saith : That he is the President of the New-York Institution for the Blind ; and that the above Report, signed by him, is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

AUGUSTUS SCHELL.

Sworn to this 15th day }  
of March, 1871, }

JAMES H. OGELVIE,

*Notary Public, City and County of New-York.*

**Dr.** JOSEPH GRAFTON, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE NEW-YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND. **Cr.**

JANUARY 1ST, 1870.

To Balance from Account of 1869, - - -	\$1,093 80
" Cash received from the State of New-York -	33,688 83
" " " " New Jersey, -	6,320 77
" " " " County of New-York, - -	2,580 00
" " " " Tuition, - - -	734 58
" " Proceeds of U. S. Bonds, - - -	32,934 20
" " " Mortgage Bonds, - - -	32,000 00
" " Received from Donation, - - -	500 00
" " " Legacies, - - -	2,594 00
" " " Clothing, - - -	110 59
" " " Sundries, - - -	630 76
" " " Rents, - - -	50 00
" " " Sales of Manufactures, -	2,486 00
" " " Interest, - - -	1,960 45
" " " Fairs and Exhibitions, -	148 00
	<hr/>
	\$117,831 98

JOSEPH GRAFTON, *Treasurer.*

By Cash, paid for Supplies, - - -	\$12 792 31
" " " Salaries and Wages, - - -	16,073 28
" " " Clothing, - - -	3,032 90
" " " Furniture and Fixtures, - - -	1,742 29
" " " Repairs and Alterations, - - -	67,815 89
" " " Traveling Expenses, - - -	271 36
" " " Gas, - - -	589 20
" " " Music and Instruction, - - -	2,689 84
" " " Raw Material—Manufacturing, -	2,091 76
" " " Petty Account, - - -	1,488 50
" " " Fairs and Exhibitions, - - -	165 03
" " " Insurance, - - -	256 80
" " " Croton Water, - - -	73 00
" " " Balance on hand, - - -	8,749 82

Audited and found to be correct, {  
March 6, 1871.

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\$117,831 98

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J. M. McLEAN,  
WM. WHITEWRIGHT, JR. } *Finance Committee.*

## Attending Physician's Report.

NEW-YORK, *January 2d*, 1871.

*To the Board of Managers of the New-York Institution for the Blind :*

GENTLEMEN :—I am called on, according to custom, to submit an Annual Report.

This year it becomes a mere matter of form.

There was no sickness worth recording, all the cases being of the most trivial character, and no deaths.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. W. G. CLEMENTS, M.D.

## Report of the Superintendent.

*To the Board of Managers :*

GENTLEMEN :—

At the close of the year 1869, the number of pupils was.....	145
Received during the year 1870.....	12
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Whole number instructed during the year.....	157
Reductions by expiration of term.....	28
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Number of pupils, December 31st, 1870.....	129

### CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

The cause of Blindness in the cases of the twelve pupils received, was as follows :

Opthalmia.....	3	Opthalmia, sequel to Brain	
Amaurosis.....	1	Fever.....	1
Cataract.....	1	Measles.....	2
Granulated Lids.....	2	Unknown.....	1

### ACCIDENTS.

Blow of a Knife.....	1
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## AGES AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED.

First year.....	1	Twelfth year.....	1
Second “ .....	2	Twentieth “ .....	1
Fourth “ .....	2	Twenty-first year.....	1
Fifth “ .....	1	Unknown .....	3

The organization of the school into three departments of instruction, Literary, Musical and Industrial is still maintained.

This organization is necessary to the health, pleasure and welfare of the pupils; because it enables both mind and body to be brought into exercise at various times and in various ways, thus affording relief from a daily routine of duty which would otherwise become very monotonous and consequently very depressing. It is also essential, for the reason that every institution of this kind should be possessed of every means and be prepared to afford every facility for giving, not only the general instruction which every child needs, but also such special training as may be required in particular cases. It is our purpose to advance the pupils in that department of learning for which they show a natural aptness, fondness and fitness, and which is most likely to prepare them for usefulness in life.

## LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

There has been no material change in the general course of instruction during the past year. The progress of the pupils and the discipline of the school have been satisfactory.

There may be said to be no text books by which to facilitate the progress of the blind in literary pursuits.

Those which have been published have become almost obsolete, and little or no use is made of them. This will ever be the case until text books shall be printed in characters or signs easily perceptible to the touch of every pupil in the school, and which may also be used by the pupils in tangible writing.

A text book which can be read only by those whose sense of touch is very acute, can never be used as a class book. The reason is, that in every grade of scholarship we find those who are wholly unable to learn to read either of the line sign systems; many others who can only read by slow spelling, and but few who can read with facility. Hence books printed in either the

Boston or Glasgow systems have never been, nor can they ever be, brought into general use as class books in the education of the blind. This is likewise true of every other alphabet for the blind, the letters of which are formed of lines, and which are known as *line signs*.

It is true that books for the blind still continue to be printed in the line signs, but as was said thirty years ago by a gentleman long a manager of this Institution, so now, "they are confined to a few elegant extracts," and the catalogue will never be materially augmented until printing shall be done in characters which *all* the blind may read, which *all* the blind may write, and which *all* the blind may read after writing. In fact the mere increase of the *number* of books, as at present printed, is no indication, whatever, of the real value of these books in general, to the blind as a class. The Roman capital and lower case alphabets, by great exertion, may be learned and read by a limited number of the pupils within the walls of our Institutions; but the fact that they are not adapted to the sense of touch as found in *all* the blind, or even a majority of them, interposes an insurmountable barrier to their *general* adoption and use, and hence the art of reading amongst the blind as a *general* means for acquiring knowledge by the use of books printed in the line signs is a failure. Every dollar expended in their production simply increases the bulk of the comparatively useless collection, and unnecessarily adds to the already incontrovertible proof of their inutility.

In view of these facts, and as offering a possible solution of the difficulty, we recommend the adoption of the point system; fully set forth in the Report of this Institution for the year 1868. We urge teachers of the blind to inquire into the comparative tangibility and utility of the line and point signs. Let each pupil be provided with a point writing slate, and it will soon be found that all can both read and write. In this way the art of reading will become more general, and an active and constantly-increasing demand for books will be established, which must result in the ultimate formation of a useful and permanent literature for the blind, and in the more general diffusion of knowledge among them. In the absence



of text-books, it naturally follows that the instruction of the blind must be almost entirely oral.

To facilitate the pupils in learning arithmetic, algebra, geometry and geography, apparatus is used corresponding to those indispensable requisites of every school for the seeing, viz., the slate and pencil, the blackboard and the map. Our so-called slate consists of a framework of metal, hard rubber, or wood, about eight inches square and one inch deep, and is divided by thin strips crossing one another at right angles into about twenty-five holes or spaces on each side, making some six hundred and twenty-five holes in all. In place of a pencil, two types are used called the TV and the L blank, from the fact that the letters T and V are cast on one of the types, and the letter L and a blank space on the other.

By inserting the types in the spaces of the slate, the numerals are formed. Thus :

T. T. L. T. V. > . Λ . < . L. □.  
1, 2. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0.

The example, multiply 4,291 by 635, would be performed as follows :

			⊢	⊢	L	T		
					>	⊥	V	
			<hr/>					
		⊢	T	⊢	V	V		
	T	⊢	<	Λ	⊥			
⊢	V	Λ	⊢	>				
<hr/>								
⊢	Λ	⊢	⊢	Λ	<	V		

Other types are used to represent Algebraic signs and quantities. In Geometry the diagrams are formed by raised lines ; and figured or lettered, or neither, as may be desired. No branch of study is more interesting to the scholars than that of Political Geography, and there is none in which they make more rapid advancement. Their knowledge of the subject is gained by means of maps and globes, as complete in detail as those used by the seeing. Our collection includes all the political divisions of both hemispheres.

The portion of the map representing land, is elevated above that which represents water.

In this way, the coast lines and river courses are distinctly shown. Mountain ranges are indicated by an irregular broken line, slightly raised above the general land surface.

Where rivers or mountains form boundaries, nothing more is needed to indicate them.

In other cases they are shown on maps not dissected, by a continuous row of small tacks.

Commercial, and other important cities, are indicated by tacks, with or without heads, and capital cities by small screws.

Nearly all our maps are dissected so that the scholar, by the sense of touch, may learn with much definiteness, the form, boundaries, mountains, rivers, and cities of every country in both hemispheres; every State in the Union, and every county of the State in which he lives. Railroad lines, canal courses, and ocean routes are learned with much minuteness. The subject of latitude and longitude is brought within the easy grasp of the pupil, by means of a large globe, on which the equator, represented by a raised line, and the brass circle are marked off in degrees. The pupils excel in their attainments in this branch of study. In general the literary department is conferring upon the pupils the benefits of a liberal education and accomplishing the purposes for which it was designed.

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## MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

Every effort consistent with the means at the disposal of the Institution has been made to render the department effective.

The musical education afforded has been of a high grade. Compositions of the highest masters of both vocal and instrumental music have been learned with facility by the more advanced pupils, while the elementary instruction of the younger scholars has been prosecuted with success. The introduction of a new organ has added largely to the facilities for instruction.

Persons deprived of the enjoyments and pleasures of sight

must find compensation, if at all, through the medium of the other senses.

Hence music constitutes one of the chief sources of gratification to the blind. The greatest importance and value of music to our pupils is found in the fact that by a successful cultivation of the art, they acquire the means of obtaining a livelihood, which, after all, is the great object of their endeavor.

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### INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

The usual branches of industry have been pursued during the year.

It is apparent that by the deprivation of sight our pupils are prevented from taking much exercise. The various employments of the industrial department obviate this difficulty in part; by affording light exercise which is so essential to health and at the same time gives employment to the mind in the effort to acquire mechanical skill and a knowledge of manufacturing pursuits. The ability to use the hands, in doing even simple things, such as the tying of a knot; the development of the muscles and the control over them which is acquired, adds much value to this part of the instruction; apart from the more important consideration that it is intended to afford a means of support.

The following statement shows the business of the year, which has been less profitable than usual, owing to the suspension of work necessitated by the repairs and alterations of the buildings.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. B. WAIT,

*Superintendent.*



**Dr.** THE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT IN ACCT. WITH THE NEW-YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND. **Cr.**

1870—DECEMBER 31ST.

To Raw Material and Manufactured Stock on hand,	
December 31st, 1869,	\$918 09
" Fixtures,	935 00
" Raw Material bought in 1870,	1,845 36
" Balance,	192 50

\$3,890 95

To Salaries and Wages,	1,577 00
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\$1,577 00

By Sales of Mattresses,	- - - -	\$929 2½
" Brooms,	- - - -	1,300 39
" Mats,	- - - -	85 89
" Bills Receivable,	- - - -	201 97
" Value of Raw Material on hand with Manufactured Stock,	- - - -	438 49
" Fixtures,	- - - -	935 09

\$3,890 95

By Profit on Work,	- - - -	\$192 50
" Balance,	- - - -	\$1,384 50

\$1,577 00

# LIST OF PUPILS.

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## MALES.

ANDERSON, WILLIAM,  
 ANGEL, CHARLES,  
 ABBOTT, JAMES,  
 BROWN, EDWARD A.,  
 BERGEN, JOHN,  
 CREAMER, CHARLES,  
 CARROLL, JOHN,  
 CARROLL, THOMAS,  
 CURRY, MICHAEL,  
 DAGNER, THOMAS,  
 DUGANNE, CORNELIUS,  
 DOHERTY, WILLIAM F.,  
 DONAHUE, THOMAS,  
 EADIE, ARCHIBALD,  
 FLEMING, JOHN,  
 FOGGIN, EDWARD,  
 GAMBLE, CHARLES G.,  
 GRAHAM, EDGAR,  
 GRAHAM, L. R.,  
 GRANT, CHARLES M.,  
 HAMMOND, GEORGE M.,  
 HOPPER, REUBEN,  
 HARRING, ISAAC B.,  
 HOLLAND, THOMAS,  
 KEISER, CHARLES,  
 KUNTZ, JOHN J.,  
 LEIGH, GEORGE,  
 MAHONY, JOHN,  
 MUSSEHL, RUDOLPH,  
 McNAMEE, JOHN,  
 MORRIS, JOHN,  
 MARUM, EDWARD,  
 MYERS, THEODORE,  
 MULLALY, WALTER J.,  
 MEYERHAFFER, AUGUSTUS,  
 MAXWELL, WILLIAM H.,

## FEMALES.

ABBOTT, EMMA,  
 BEAR, HARRIET,  
 BRADLEY, SARAH L.,  
 BENNETT, JANE,  
 BARRETT, ELIZABETH,  
 BULLOCK, CAROLINE E.,  
 CUNNINGHAM, M. J.,  
 CONROY, MARY,  
 CONDERON, ELIZA,  
 CASSIDY, MARY,  
 DE BACHE, A. M. E.,  
 DOLAN, DELIA,  
 DONOVAN, HONORA,  
 DIAMOND, ELIZABETH,  
 DRINGELAS, ROSA,  
 FINNEGAN, VIRGINIA,  
 FARRELL, SUSAN,  
 GREEN, ELIZABETH,  
 GEORGE, HARRIET,  
 GRAUTIGAN, CAROLINE,  
 GRIFFIN, MARY,  
 GASSNER, LETELIA F.,  
 GILMARTIN, MARY A.,  
 HOSIER, ELIZABETH B.,  
 HALL, ELIZABETH,  
 HOAR, MARY ANN,  
 HALPIN, MARGARET,  
 HURLEY, MARY E.,  
 HAAG, CAROLINE,  
 HUTCHINSON, H.,  
 HAMILTON, LORANNA,  
 HOUGHTON, MARY,  
 JUSTIN, LOUISA,  
 KAUFFMAN, MARY,  
 KEOGLE, MATILDA,

McDONALD, THOMAS,  
 McDONOUGH, MICHAEL,  
 MITCHELL, VALENTINE,  
 MURRAY, JOHN,  
 NONES, THEODORE,  
 OSTERHELD, FREDERICK,  
 O'BRIEN, HENRY,  
 PORAT, OSCAR M.,  
 POWERS, DAVID,  
 ROACH, JOHN H.,  
 RUTH, JOHN,  
 STODDARD, CHARLES,  
 SHOURDS, SAMUEL,  
 SMALL, JOHN,  
 SMITH, EDWARD,  
 SEAMAN, THEODORE D.,  
 SEAMAN, WILLIAM H.,  
 SHOPPAK, LEOPOLD,  
 SPREINE, CHARLES,  
 SCHNEIDERMAN, JOHN,  
 TIMPSON, EDWARD C.,  
 UPTON, JESSE,  
 VANDERPOEL, SAMUEL,  
 WAGER, JOHN J.,  
 WARREN, FRANCIS,  
 WYANT, WILLIAM,  
 WILSON, JOHN,  
 WEST, THOMAS,  
 WILLIAMS, JOHN H.,  
 WILLIAMS, JAMES H.,  
 WELSH, THOMAS F.,  
 YONGE, FRANK B.

LUDLOW, MARGARET,  
 LANSLEY, HARRIET,  
 LAMBERT, AMELIA,  
 LIVINGSTON, SARAH,  
 LYNCH, ANN,

MAGATHAN, SARAH J.,  
 MCGEE, ELIZABETH,  
 MCINTEE, ANN,  
 MCGARR, MARY J.,  
 MAXWELL, BRIDGET,  
 MAXWELL, M. A.,  
 McNAMARA, CECELIA,

NEVINS, ANNIE,  
 NORTON, MARY,

O'CONNOR, KATE,

POWELL, IDA A.,  
 PFAP, MARGARET,  
 PORAT, BERNADINA,

ROBERTS, DOLORES,

SCHALN ANNA,  
 STROMMINGER, CAROLINE,  
 SULLIVAN, ANNIE,  
 SAUNK, ELIZABETH,  
 SAMUEL, FANNY E.,  
 STAATS, MARY ELLEN,

TOUHEY, MARY J.,  
 THOMPSON, MARY I.,  
 THOMPSON, LILLIE,  
 THROCKMORTON, IRENA,

WARD, KATE.

